

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 /089 W

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R 160855Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8340

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: HOW MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WILL SHARE SAHARA

1. OULD DADDAH ARRIVED HERE APRIL 13 HAVING BEEN PRECEDED BY HIS MINISTER OF INTERNAL SOVEREIGNTY. GIRM PRESIDENT ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN OULD MOUKNASS AND SECYGEN OF PRESIDENCY, ALI CHERIF.

2. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED LATE APRIL 14, TWO SIDES

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ANNOUNCED SIGNING OF TWO ACCORDS, ONE ON NEW BORDERS BETWEEN

TWO COUNTRIES AND THE OTHER ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION INVOLVING JOINT EXPLOITATION OF "ALL" SAHARAN NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE IN OFFSHORE WATERS.

3. TEXTS OF DECLARATIONS PUBLISHED HERE APRIL 15. FRONTIER ACCORD BEGAN BY REFERRING TO ICJ OPINION, MADRID ACCORD, AND FEB. 26 JEMAA SESSION. FRONTIER LINE DESCRIBED AS STRAIGHT LINE, PARTING FROM ATLANTIC AT 24TH PARALLEL SOUTHEASTERLY TO POINT OF INTERSECTION OF 23RD PARALLEL AND 13TH MERIDIAN. FROM THAT POINT, FRONTIER GOES NORTH ALONG PRESENT MAURITANIAN-SAHARAN BORDER TO COORDINATES 824/500 AND 959. A MIXED COMMITTEE WILL DEMARcate FRONTIER ON THE GROUND.

4. THE ACCORD ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE SAHARA IS BRIEF. IT BEGAN BY REFERRING TO AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF OCT. 30, 1974 AND IMPORTANCE THE PARTIES ACCORDED TO "EXECUTING THE ARRANGEMENTS" CONTAINED THEREIN. TWO PARTIES AGREED TO PARTICIPATION OF GIRM IN SOCIETE FOSBUCRAA, MODALITIES TO BE SETTLED IN LATER ACCORD. TWO PARTIES ALSO AGREED TO JOIN "MEANS AND RESOURCES" TO PROSPECT UNDERGROUND WEALTH IN SAHARA WITH VIEW TO JOINT EXPLOITATION. MIXED SOCIETIES TO BE CREATED TO THIS END. TWO PARTIES ALSO AGREED TO DEVELOP COOPERATION IN FISHING. NO REFERENCE TO OFFSHORE OIL EXPLOITATION.

5. COMMENT: REFERENCE TO OCT. 1974 LETTER APPEARS TO RELATE TO ORIGINAL SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA TO PURSUE JOINT POLICY ON SAHARA.

6. NO SURPRISES ON BORDER DELINEATION. DAKHLA, AS EXPECTED, FALLS WITHIN MAURITANIAN TERRITORY.

7. ACCORDS SERVE TO UNDERLINE ONGOING GOM/GIRM RESOLVE TO HOLD TO PRESENT CLOSE TIES, ESPECIALLY AS CONCERNs COORDINATION ON SAHARA POLICY. FOR ITS PART, GOM, PARTICULARLY IN SHARING BOU CRAA WEALTH, SHOWED GENEROUS SIDE TO HELP KEEP GIRM ON BOARD AND IMPRESS ONLOOKERS WHOSE SUPPORT IT IS SEEKING IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON SAHARA QUESTION.

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